

Exile, Displacement, Refuge: Migrations to and from Modern Spain (1492 to the Present)



This course aims to critically discuss the human impact of the numerous sociopolitical exiles, forced ethnic displacements, and mass-migrations that have left their mark both inside and outside of modern Spain over the last 500 years. The enduring legacies of these complex processes –intimately tied to histories of colonialism, genocide, and popular resistance to both– will be analyzed through the critical reading of primary and secondary texts, including **works of fiction, visual art, photography**, and first-hand **testimonies** of migrants, exiles, and forcibly displaced people of diverse ethnicities, social classes and political affiliations.

Principal topics of discussion will include: the roles of both state violence and economic inequality in ‘pushing’ migrants and other displaced people to leave their homes, the forms in which different groups of migrants and exiles both to and from Spain have tried either to challenge or to ‘adapt’ to their displacement historically, as well as the continued criminalization, stigmatization, and precariousness of migrant life today (together with the proliferation of militarized borders, surveillance states, and modern ethno-nationalist political parties).

